

# **CRANSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MARCH 16, 2015**

**WESTERN HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**400 PHENIX AVENUE, CRANSTON, RI 02920**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:00 P.M.**

**IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING - PUBLIC SESSION**

## **MINUTES**

The School Committee meeting was held on the evening of the above date at Western Hills Middle School with the following members present: Chairperson Ruggieri, Mr. Colford, Mrs. Culhane, Mr. Fusco, Mr. Gale, Mr. Traficante and Mr. Wall. Attorney Cascione was present during Executive Session.

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. It was moved by Mr. Gale; seconded by Mr. Fusco to convene to Executive Session pursuant to RI State Laws. The roll was called; all were in favor: Mr. Colford – Yes; Mrs. Culhane – Yes; Mr. Fusco – Yes; Mr. Gale – Yes; Mrs. Ruggieri – Yes; Mr. Traficante – Yes; Mr. Wall – Yes:

**PL 42-46-5(a)(1) Personnel:**

**PL 42-46-5(a)(2) Collective Bargaining/Litigation:**

**A. Pension Lawsuit**

**PL 42-46-5(3)**

**A. District Safety Plan**

**Call to Order - Public Session at 6:38 p.m.**

**The roll was called; a Quorum was present.**

**Executive Session Minutes Sealed – Mrs. Ruggieri stated that no votes were taken in executive session. A motion was made to seal the minutes of executive session; moved by Mr. Traficante; seconded by Mr. Gale. The roll was called; all were in favor.**

**Minutes of Previous Meetings Approved – February 12, 2015 and February 23, 2015. Moved by Mr. Gale; seconded by Mr. Traficante. The roll was called; all were in favor.**

**Public Acknowledgements/Communications - None**

**Chairperson's Communications**

**Mrs. Ruggieri stated – I just wanted to clear up some information that was floating around that was not correct. The 2015-2016 School Calendar was not on the agenda, therefore it was not removed from the agenda. During our work session we did discuss the calendar survey results and will be discussed at the April work session and**

then the 2015-2016 School Calendar will be addressed at the April regular meeting. At the School Committee meeting in April the 2015-2016 calendar will be amended and/or approved at that meeting. In addition, I know that there was a committee set up by the City Council to deal with snow removal issues. Obviously, we are hoping that this is no longer an issue for this year, but for next year we would like to have a better plan in place. I have already contacted the City Council and we will be included in on this meetings. I just wanted to let everybody know.

### **Superintendent's Communications**

Dr. Lundsten stated – This morning I received an email from Gerry Auth. I would like to congratulate Ed Spidell. He is one of our teachers and he teaches engineering and robotics. He was selected by Skills USA to be the Rhode Island Career and Tech Educator of the Year. We will certainly bring forth a resolution for this later on but I wanted to share the news with everyone today. I think it is a wonderful accomplishment and we are certainly proud of him and delighted to have this honor for him. Likewise, over the weekend I had the pleasure of attending two theater events; one at Cranston West and one at Cranston East. At Cranston East they did a short play, about 25-30 minutes called Emotional Baggage. Then they presented it at the Rhode Island Drama Festival that was held here at Cranston West on Friday night and Saturday. Cranston East placed for Best Ensemble and some of the actors and actresses received

public acknowledgement for their work. It was a very interesting play. Likewise, the weekend before at Cranston West they presented a drama production called Radium Girls. They actually won the Festival for Rhode Island and will now move to the Regionals which will be in Rockport Maine at the end of April. I would like to offer my congratulations for both groups. You would have been really proud if you were in the audience. They were absolutely wonderful. It was a very different play and very important topics. Emotional Baggage is exactly what it says. It is what we carry with us and frankly I looked at in regards to bullying. Radium Girls is about something that happened that influenced most woman about labor laws. The students learned a lot and not only about theater production but also about our laws around labor, about Radium and about those illnesses associated with Radium that happened in the early 1900's. I would like to offer my congratulations to both groups. They were absolutely delightful.

Also, tonight on the Agenda you might have noticed that we have four retirees. The combined years is almost 110 years for these four ladies. I have had the distinct pleasure of working with 2 of these ladies and certainly the other two ladies reputations tell us that they will be sorely missed with their retirement. Tonight we have Melanie Albanese on here who is currently stationed at Stadium. She has been a music teacher with us for 21 years. We also have Martha Landes who is a science teacher at Park View who has been a teacher with us for 25 years. Diane Zapasnik who most recently was a

kindergarten teacher at Eden Park for 28 years. Donna Zaroogian who is a special education teacher at the Charter School for 28 years. I would like to offer my congratulations to these fine folks and wish them well on their retirement and hope they have a healthy and productive time.

### **School Committee Member Communications**

Daniel Wall stated – Very briefly, I have two items. By way of public announcement, before I left this evening, Liz Harvey who is a member of the Woodridge PTO sent something to me. She wanted me to announce, because she was unable to make it tonight that the 2nd Annual Woodridge Wizards 5K run is coming up. It is a certified 5K and will benefit the Woodridge PTO and the proceeds in the past have gone to the Technology Fund at Woodridge. It's a lot of fun and open to all the students in the City and is a very good community event and I wanted to mention that. It is also listed on the Woodridge Elementary School webpage. The second item I would like to mention quickly, I would like to commend State Representative Gregg Amore, William O'Brien and Aaron Regunberg. Last week they introduced a bill on the 12th of March that would require the Department of Education to establish a formal policy and procedure for opting out of the PARCC and other such state assessments. I commend their efforts to bring clarity to this issue. I would also like to mention along those lines that I hope to introduce an amendment to our assessment and policy later on in the agenda this evening.

**Mr. Fusco stated – Last week I had the pleasure of attending a basketball between Stadium School and Edgewood Highlands. I must say I was quite impressed with the sportsmanship that was displayed and would like to congratulate Mr. Barron and Mr. Lovejoy for helping those kids learn basketball and do such a great job. It was an exciting game that came down to a 3 point shot with 3 seconds left to tie the score and that is how the game ended. I was quite impressed and want to commend them again.**

### **Public Hearing**

- a. Students (Agenda/Non-Agenda Matters) - None**
- b. Members of the Public (Agenda Matters Only) - None**

### **Consent Calendar/Consent Agenda**

**The following resolutions were adopted unanimously under the Consent Agenda:**

**15-03-05; 15-03-06; 15-03-07; 15-03-08; 15-03-09; 15-03-10; 15-03-11;  
15-03-12;15-03-13; 15-03-14; 15-03-15; 15-03-16 w/addendum;  
15-03-17; 15-03-18; 15-03-19; 15-03-20; 15-03-22**

**A motion was made to approve by Mr. Traficante; seconded by Mrs. Culhane. The roll was called; all were in favor.**

## **Action Calendar/Action Agenda**

### **RESOLUTIONS**

**Sponsored by the Cranston School Committee**

**Resolution No. 15-03-01 Whereas, students from The Cranston Area Career & Technical Center at Cranston High School West have distinguished themselves through competing in the 2015 Rhode Island State DECA Competitions; and**

**Whereas, the following 40 students have distinguished themselves on the state level by medaling in their respective competitions:**

**Sydney Conley, Entrepreneurship Written Event- Gold; Courtenay Briggs, Entrepreneurship Written Event - Gold; David Swanson, Entrepreneurship Written Event - Gold; Alexis Tella, Entrepreneurship-Growing Your Business - Gold; Gianna Gargaro, Entrepreneurship-Growing Your Business - Gold; Giuliana Hathaway, Entrepreneurship-Growing Your Business - Gold; Joseph Mee, Entrepreneurship-Participating Franchise - Gold; Ryan Beliveau, International Business Plan - Gold; Brianna Caputo, Community Service Project - Gold; Lianna Colarusso, Community Service Project - Gold; John Petrocelli Community Service Project - Gold; Christopher Minicucci, Creative Marketing Project - Gold; Joulieen Martinelli, Creative Marketing Project - Gold; Karim Jamous, Buying &**

**Merchandising Operations Research - Gold; Noah Dinerman, Buying & Merchandising Operations Research - Gold; Theodore Ruggieri, Buying & Merchandising Operations Research - Gold; Morgan DiMaio, Business Operations Research-Finance - Gold; Meaghan Marchetti, Business Operations Research-Finance - Gold; Cassandra Giarusso, Business Operations Research-Finance - Gold; Michael Degnan, Sports & Entertainment Operations Research - Gold; Joshua Forgue, Sports & Entertainment Operations Research - Gold; Joshua Pereira, Sports & Entertainment Operations Research - Gold; Mathew Lonardo, Learn and Earn Project - Gold; Ryan Marsella, Learn and Earn Project - Gold; William Saccoccio, Learn and Earn Project - Gold; Austin Alzate, Entrepreneurship Written Event - Silver; Chauncey Rhodes, Entrepreneurship Written Event - Silver; Mitchell Smith, Entrepreneurship Written Event - Silver; Adrian Cilento, Entrepreneurship-Participating Franchise - Silver; Isabella Saiguero, Business Services Operations Research - Silver; Gianna Bruno, Business Services Operations Research - Silver; Luigina Pena, Entrepreneurship-Innovation Plan - Silver; Alexa Kite, Public Relations Project - Silver; Alexia Marchetti, Public Relations Project - Silver; Natalia Perretta, Public Relations Project - Silver; Jonathan Petrarca, Entrepreneurship-Innovation Plan - Bronze; Ronald Antonucci, Entrepreneurship-Participating Franchise - Bronze; Nicholas Bordieri, Hospitality and Tourism Operations Research - Bronze; Christopher Manfredo, Hospitality and Tourism Operations Research - Bronze; Nikolas SanAntonio, Hospitality and Tourism Operations Research - Bronze**



**Be it RESOLVED that the Cranston School Committee extends its congratulations to all of these students for their exceptional accomplishments, and to Mr. Thomas Barbieri, Principal of Cranston High School West, Mr. Gerry Auth, Director, Cranston Area, Career & Technical Center, and teacher Mr. Richard Abruzzini.**

**Be it further RESOLVED, that they receive a copy of this Resolution signed by the members of the Cranston School Committee.**

**Moved by Mr. Traficante; seconded by Mr. Fusco. The roll was called; all were in favor.**

**Sponsored by the Cranston School Committee**

**Resolution No. 15-03-02 Be it RESOLVED that Cranston School Committee wishes to congratulate the following students for their selection to and participation in the 2015 Rhode Island Music Educators Association All-State Ensembles:**

**Junior Division All-State Band - Lia Dietrich (Park View)**

**Junior Division All-State Jazz Ensemble - Troy Cedarfield (Western Hills)**

**Junior Division All-State Orchestra - Hannah Joyce (Cranston East)**

**Junior Division All-State Treble Chorus - Ashley Konturas (Western Hills); Mikeicha Malloy (Western Hills); Jessica Panichas (Western Hills); Lauren St. Jean (Western Hills)**

**Junior Division All-State Mixed Chorus - Carrie Minassian (Cranston West); Mackenzie Plage (Western Hills); Jessica Sullivan (Western Hills)**

**Senior Division Women's Chorus - Kristen Huettemann (Cranston West); Arianna Pereschino (Cranston West); Katharine Stein (Cranston West)**

**Senior Division All-State Mixed Chorus - Vincent Brooks (Cranston East); Sydney Chalmers-Ganon (Cranston East); Danielle Dottor (Cranston West); Connor Levine (Cranston West); Dashesky Pena (Cranston East); Briana Stewart (Cranston East)**

**Senior Division All-State Band - Angelina Gudoshnik (Cranston West); Kelvin Jimenez (Cranston East); Taylor Koretsky (Cranston West); Daniel Saillant (Cranston West); Peter Xiong (Cranston East); Peter Xiong (Cranston East)**

**Senior Division All-State Orchestra - Matthew Fyrer (Cranston West); Laney Kong (Cranston East); Jessica Leung (Cranston East); Alexander Norberg (Cranston East); Andrew Oung (Cranston West);**

**Ted Paola (Cranston West); Emma Paoella (Cranston West);Melanie Peralta (Cranston East); Peter Xiong (Cranston East)**

**Be it RESOLVED that the committee wishes to offer special congratulations to Peter Xiong of Cranston East who was selected on trombone, baritone, horn and as the number one cellist in the state.**

**Be it further RESOLVED that the committee also wishes to recognize the hard work and dedication of the band, orchestra and choral leaders in Cranston High School East and West, Mark Colozzi, Greg Arsenault, Christine Harrington, Phil Lachance and Artie Montanaro as well as the middle school directors, Katie Karikas, Bob Hassan and Mitch Fortier.**

**All of these fine musicians will perform with the all-state ensembles on Sunday, March 22 at the Veterans Memorial Auditorium in Providence.**

**Be it further RESOLVED, that they receive a copy of this Resolution signed by the members of the Cranston School Committee.**

**Mr. Traficante moved to take Resolution 15-03-02 out of order to wait for additional students to arrive; seconded by Mr. Wall. The roll was called; all were in favor.**

**Mrs. Culahne moved to approve; seconded by Mr. Traficante. The roll**

**was called; all were in favor.**

**Sponsored by Stephanie Giangrande Culhane**

**Resolution No. 15-03-03 Be it RESOLVED that the Cranston School Committee wishes to recognize Joshua Nelson and his brother Jacob Nelson who both became Eagle Scouts from Troop 22, Cranston, during their Eagle High Court of Honor held at St. Matthew's School in Cranston on October 30, 2014.**

**Whereas, Eagle is the highest rank a Scout can attain, and an honor that is held for life. Joshua and Jacob each joined Scouting at age 10; and**

**Whereas, Joshua completed his Eagle project by organizing a large environmental cleanup of the Pocasset River in Cranston at the corner of Pontiac Avenue and Marine Drive in April. Joshua led approximately 50 volunteers during his project; and**

**Whereas, Jacob also completed his Eagle project this past April. He organized a book drive for the Veterans Administration Medical Center, collecting approximately 5,000 books. The VA could only accept 200, so the remainder was distributed to the Adult Correctional Institution, Big Brothers Big Sisters and the United Way; and**

**Whereas, both of the brothers are or have been active in CLCF, CNBLL, the Cranston East Thunderbolt Marching Band and St. Mark's Church. Joshua, 16 and Jacob, 14, have also earned their place as Cranston Public Schools honor students; and**

**Be it RESOLVED, that the committee wishes to extend its congratulations to both students, their parents and Boy Scout Leaders.**

**Be it further RESOLVED, that both Jacob and Joshua receive a copy of this Resolution signed by the members of the Cranston School Committee.**

**A motion was made by Mrs. Culhane; seconded by Mr. Traficante. The roll was called; all were in favor.**

**Sponsored by Domenic F. Fusco, Jr.**

**Resolution No. 15-03-04 Whereas, the MATHCOUNTS Competition Series is a competition program where students from all over the state compete against one another in a series of in person mathematics challenges; and**

**Whereas, the program is intended for students who have a passion for mathematics and a desire to be challenged. A competition of this nature is an incredible opportunity for students to develop their critical thinking and problem solving skills as well as gain confidence in their work and a deeper love for mathematics; and**

**Whereas, on Saturday, March 7, 2015 a team of Bain students participated in the competition and the team was placed in 7th place**

out of 22 schools. This team went from 22nd place last year to 7th place this year; and

Be it RESOLVED that the Cranston School Committee extends its congratulations to the following students for this achievement and to Coach, Cristen Rekrut:

Sabrina Baldomar, Jean Carlos Berroa-Tejeda, Jay Cooke, Domenico Deluca, Jake Gardner, Quinn Lanigan, Jason-Lesly Larosiliere, Andrew Levine, Aaron Ly and Nicholas Yau and Special Photographer, Destiny Hernandez

Be it further RESOLVED, that they receive a copy of this Resolution signed by the members of the Cranston School Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Fusco; seconded by Mr. Traficante. The roll was called; all were in favor.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

Sponsored by the School Committee

Resolution No. 15-03-05 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, pursuant to R.I. General Laws 16-2-3, the Cranston School Committee petitions the Commissioner of the Rhode Island Department of Education to allow the School Committee to

**reduce the number of days for the students of Cranston High School West from 180 to 179 days as a result of the school closure on March 3, 2015.**

**Said request for reduction in school days is brought as a result of the school closure due to an underground cable had to be replaced from the utility pole into the main generator. As a result of the power loss, the classrooms were very dark and visibility was significantly restricted in the hallways creating safety concerns**

**Resolution No. 15-03-06 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, pursuant to R.I. General Laws 16-2-3, the Cranston School Committee petitions the Commissioner of the Rhode Island Department of Education to allow the School Committee to reduce the number of days for the students of Cranston from 180 to 178 days as a result of school closure from January 27 through January 29th, 2015.**

**Said request for reduction in school days is brought as a result of school closure due to the road restrictions. In addition, the closing of school on January 28th, 2015 was based on the health and safety of all school students. We have walkers and it was too hazardous for these students to be walking. The emergency nature (blizzard) of the situation was one in which we had no control or responsibility.**

**Resolution No. 15-03-07 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of**

**the Superintendent, the  
following certified personnel be appointed as substitutes on a  
temporary basis as needed:**

**Lisa Sylvia, Physical Education K-12**

**Amelia Warner, Elementary\Middle Special Education**

**Amy Bratter, School Psychologist**

**Resolution No. 15-03-08 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of  
the Superintendent, the  
retirement of the following certified personnel be accepted:**

**Melody Albanese-Kelly, Teacher**

**Itinerant**

**Effective Date...June 30, 2015**

**Martha Landes, Teacher**

**Park View**

**Effective Date...June 30, 2015**

**Diane Zapasnik, Teacher**

**Eden Park**

**Effective Date...June 30, 2015**

**Donna Zaroogian, Teacher**

**Charter**



**Effective Date...June 30, 2015**

**Resolution No. 15-03-09 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation(s) of the following certified personnel be accepted:**

**Helen Jones, Teacher**

**Leave**

**Effective...February 19, 2015**

**Resolution No. 15-03-10 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following individual(s) be appointed as an athletic coach:**

**Justin Erickson, Assistant Coach Boys' Lacrosse**

**CHSW**

**Step-3**

**Class-D**

**Playing Competition-High School**

**Experience-CSHW Assistant Coach Football**

**Certification-RI Coaches Certification; CPR\AED\First Aid**

**Resolution No. 15-03-11 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following individual(s) be reappointed as an athletic coach:**

**Cranston High School East**

**Michael Walsh- Head Baseball Coach**

**Raymond Rotondo- Assistant Baseball Coach**

**Paul Bessette-Head Softball Coach**

**Kayla Cilley-Assistant Softball Coach**

**Robert Bouchard- Head Boys' Outdoor Track Coach**

**Carl Bishop-Assistant Boys' Outdoor Track Coach**

**Robert LaBanca- Head Girls' Outdoor Track Coach**

**Ron Lee-Assistant Boys' Volleyball Coach**

**John Palumbo-Head Coed Golf Coach**

**James Creamer-Head Boys' Lacrosse Coach**

**Matthew Davis-Assistant Boys' Lacrosse Coach**

**Howard Chun-Head Girls' Lacrosse Coach**

**Scott Maynard-Assistant Girls' Lacrosse Coach**

**Cranston High School West**

**Robert Malo- Head Baseball Coach**

**Corey Capirchio-Assistant Baseball Coach**

**Jeff Smith – Head Softball Coach**

**Dave Kenneally-Assistant Softball Coach**

**Keith Croft- Head Boys' Outdoor Track Coach**

**Thomas Aronne-Assistant Boys' Outdoor Track Coach**

**Roger Tow-Head Boys' Volleyball Coach**

**Ralph Sacco-Assistant Boys' Volleyball Coach**

**Jared Zimmer-Head Boys' Lacrosse Coach**

**Michael Soscia-Head Girls' Lacrosse Coach**

**Jamie Ferretti-Assistant Girls' Lacrosse Coach**

**Chris Sullivan-Head Coed Golf Coach**

**Joseph Salimeno-Assistant Coed Golf Coach**

**Resolution No. 15-03-12 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation of the following coach (es) be accepted:**

**David Fontes, Assistant Girls' Basketball Coach**

**Cranston West**

**Effective date...February 23, 2015**

**Resolution No. 15-03-13 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified employee(s) be appointed:**

**Danielle Marchesi, 3hr Teacher Assistant**

**Orchard Farms**

**Effective...February 23, 2015**

**Replacement**

**Fiscal Note....13646010 51110**

**Victoriano Pamorada, Custodian**

**Orchard Farms**

**Effective Date...March 17, 2015**

**Replacement**

**Fiscal Note...13647050 51110**

**Amelia Fonseca-Falcone, Bus Monitor**

**Transportation**

**Effective Date...February 23, 2015**

**Replacement**

**Fiscal Note...11245090 51110**

**Maritza Gonzalez, Teacher Assistant**

**District**

**Effective Date...March 2, 2015**

**New**

**Fiscal Note...50896195 51110**

**Danielle Sylvestre, CNA**

**Cranston West**

**Effective...March 5, 2015**

**Replacement**

**Fiscal Note...12643480 51110**

**Shoshana Adler, Counselor**

**Bain + 2**

**Effective Date....June 29, 2015**

**Replacement**

**Fiscal Note...82819111 51308**

**Resolution No. 15-03-14 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified personnel be appointed as substitutes on a temporary basis as needed:**

**Arlene Nappi, Teacher Assistant**

**George Thibault, Jr., Custodian**

**Resolution No. 15-03-15 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation(s) of the following non-certified personnel be accepted:**

**Rosemary Kashk, Bus Aide**

**Transportation**

**Effective Date...February 23, 2015**

**Marc Ranaldi, Senior Computer Technician**

**Technology**

**Effective Date...March 27, 2015**

**Resolution No. 15-03-16 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified staff member be granted a leave of absence without compensation as provided in Article X, Section C of the Master Agreement between the Cranston School Committee and the Cranston Teachers' Alliance:**

**Barbara Manzo, Bus Aide**

**Transportation**

**Effective Date...February 13, 2015 to August 31, 2015**

**Diane Lanzi, Teacher Assistant**

**Gladstone**

**Effective Date...February 26, 2015 to August 31, 2015**

**Please add to Resolution N. 15-03-16**

**Tina DiTroia-Pascone, Teacher Assistant**

**Orchard Farms**

**Effective Date...March 16, 2015 to August 31, 2015**

**BUSINESS**

**Resolution No. 15-03-17 RESOLVED, that the revised five year (2015-2020) Capital Improvement Plan, as recommended by the Superintendent, be approved (see attached).**

## **PURCHASED AND PURCHASED SERVICES**

**Resolution No. 15-03-18 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent that we accept from Mr. Alan Shawn Feinstein a gift award to Hugh B. Bain Middle School subject to the terms and conditions of the agreement which will include but are not limited to:**

- Signage located on the side of the school building**
- A \$25,000 donation in the fall of 2015 for the beautification of the school building, equipment for the weight room, computers for the library, school improvement projects and after school activities such as Project RESPECT, Science Olympiad, Math Club, etc.**

**The Foundation also agrees to a gift award of \$20,000 to follow each fall for at least the next two years.**

**Resolution No. 15-03-19 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent that we accept from Mr. Alan Shawn Feinstein a gift award to Edgewood Highland School subject to the terms and conditions of the agreement which will include but are not limited to:**

- Signage located underneath the name of the school**

**- A \$25,000 donation in the fall of 2015 for replacement of computers in the computer lab and classrooms, replace library furniture, purchase sound proofing panels for the multi-purpose room, school programs, enhance the science program and supplement the cost of field trips.**

**The Foundation also agrees to a gift award of \$20,000 to follow each fall for at least the next two years.**

## **POLICY AND PROGRAM**

**Resolution No. 15-03-20 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the School Committee the following policy be amended (see attached)**

**Policy No. 5149 Student Retention Policy Amend**

**Resolution No. 15-03-21 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the School Committee, the following policy be approved for first reading (see handout A on file with the Superintendent's Office):**

**Policy No. TBD Comprehensive Assessment System**

**Motion made by Mr. Traficante; seconded by Mr. Fusco. Discussion.**

**Mr. Wall stated – I would like to propose an amendment to the resolution. On page 2, item 3 under the heading “Districts Adoption of**



**the Comprehensive Assessment System”. It currently reads:**

**The Cranston School Committee hereby adopts the Comprehensive Assessment System, including but not limited state assessments. Students are hereby required to participate in all such required or designated assessments.**

**I would like to amend the end of that a sentence to include these words “It is the expectation of the Cranston School Committee that all students participate in State assessments, but the District also recognizes the parent’s right to refuse to have their children participate.”**

**Mr. Fusco seconded the motion. Mr. Gale asked that the last part be read again (Mr. Wall read his amendment again).**

**Mrs. Culhane stated – This is the first time I am hearing of this amendment. It is fine that we say that but to what purpose? What purpose are we making that statement because we are not then adopting a policy to how to allow parents to refuse to have their children participate?**

**Mr. Wall stated – From what I understand from the Commissioner’s note of February 27th, it says that there is no State or Federal law that affirmatively says that the students have to participate in state assessments. I am not changing anything. I am just acknowledging**

that fact that I believe Commissioner Gist and RIDE have been a little bit cagy about acknowledging it. In fact, in all the memos that have come out from the Commissioner over this time, 26 words out of 1000's about the PARCC indicate that. It is in black and white and is clear. It is out to the public. I think we are just acknowledging it.

Mrs. Ruggieri asked Mrs. Culhane to assume the chair.

Mrs. Ruggieri stated – The issue I have with this is it actually flies in the face of a current policy that we have regarding graduation requirements. While right now it is not a graduation requirement, we do require state assessments in the policy. When that changes, it will change and I know that. Currently our policy reads for graduation requirements.

Mr. Wall stated – Perhaps we will have to look at that policy as well. I am not trying to be snarky.

Mrs. Ruggieri stated – Nope, absolutely. I am just trying to point that out because we do currently have a policy and the policy language currently states that is part of it. I know right now it is not part of the graduation requirement and we have until 2020 and hopefully by then things will change, but until then we do need to follow the language so that is a concern for me.

Dr. Lundsten stated – I think this whole assessment question is a

huge one. I think it has huge implications for our curriculum, for our teachers and for our students. We need to be very careful with this because personally I do not feel that one test should determine whether a student graduates or not. I think we should have a robust comprehensive system so that we have multiple ways of looking at students above and beyond of the “standardized tests”. We should look at portfolios, projects and things like that we do for the senior presentation. I think it is important to have all of those. I think we need to look at all of those closely. Personally I would hate to see us have a requirement that a student has to get a certain score on a standardized assessment in order to walk across the state. There is more to our students than that. We have always talked about looking at the entire student. We need to do that. We need to make sure that our policies do that so I would say that maybe we need to look at the graduation requirement and clean that up. Then look at the whole assessment system and maybe do a little more homework on it. Frankly, we could be a leader in the State on this. How can we make sure we have enough assessments so that we get the data that we need and that it is not too much? We are testing, and testing and testing these kids and we are seeing anxiety across the district. This is a huge question and not one to be taken lightly at all. I would just caution you about how we proceed so we make sure we are doing the right thing by our students, the right thing by our teachers. We also need to look at the purpose of this to make sure that it is going to be used in the way it is supposed to be used and not for and not for other means.

**Mr. Traficante stated – Superintendent, are you suggesting that we look at the graduation requirement policy first and then perhaps return to this?**

**Dr. Lundsten stated – Mr. Rotz (Joseph) you are looking at the PBGR's now, correct.**

**Mr. Rotz stated – Yes.**

**Dr. Lundsten stated – So where are you now in that process?**

**Mr. Rotz stated – It has to be updated. It is out of date right now.**

**Dr. Lundsten stated – Do you see that as a logical step?**

**Mr. Rotz stated – Yes.**

**Dr. Lundsten stated – That is where I would start because then you would want it to be reflected in this Assessment Policy.**

**Mr. Traficante stated – Mr. Wall would you like us to proceed in that direction first and perhaps come back to your resolution later on.**

**Mr. Wall stated – I would be amenable to that.**

**Mr. Traficante stated – Do you want to withdraw your amendment then?**

**Mr. Wall stated – I will withdraw my amendment.**

**Mrs. Fusco stated – So if I am hearing this, we should be looking at our graduation requirements first. So are we voting on this then out of step? Should we table this?**

**Mrs. Ruggieri stated - I was going to suggest we table this assessment policy just because it ties directly into this.**

**Mr. Traficante stated – He has to remove his second.**

**Mr. Fusco stated – I remove my second.**

**Mr. Traficante moved to Table Resolution No. 15-03-21; seconded by Mr. Wall. The roll was called; all were in favor.**

**Resolution No. 15-03-22 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the superintendent, the following Conference/ Field Trip of Long Duration be authorized:**

**1. Joseph Rotz, Executive Director of Educational Programs and Services, to travel to Denver Colorado from April 26, 2015 through April 29, 2015 to attend the 36th Annual LRP's National Institute on**

**Legal Issues of Educating Individuals with Disabilities Conference, at no cost to the school department. Expenses to be funded through the TITLE II grant. Back up provided last month, with participant request for Michele Simpson and Julie Driscoll.**

**2. Thomas Lavoie, a math teacher at Cranston High School East to travel to Kansas City, Missouri from June 1 through June 9, 2015 for a AP Reader Conference. All registration fees, transportation and lodging to be funded by College Board.**

**3. Paul Carpentier, Glen Hills Elementary/Park View Middle School art teacher to travel to New Orleans, Louisiana from March 25, 2015 through March 28, 2015 for the 2015 NAEA National Convention. Registration fee to be funded through TITLE II grant, all other expenses are to be paid by participant.**

**4. Joseph Balducci, Chief Financial Officer, to travel to Savannah, Georgia from May 6, 2015 through May 8, 2015 to attend the 2015 NLC-RISC Trustees Conference. All expenses are to be paid by the NLC-RISC Trustees Organization.**

### **Public Hearing on Non-Agenda Items**

**1. Jack Santangelo, Vice President of the Cranston Teachers' Alliance – spoke on the calendar process**

**2. Audrey Hirsch, 11 Banfield Lane, Narragansett, RI – Spoke on the**

**School Calendar/Good Friday**

**3. Anne McLaughlin, 127 Sinclaire Avenue, Providence, RI – Spoke on  
School Calendar/Good Friday**

**4. Heidi Long, 99 Mishnock Road, West Greenwich, RI – Spoke on  
School Calendar/Good Friday**

**Announcement of Future Meeting(s) – April 8, 2015 and April 13, 2015**

**Adjournment**

**A motion to adjourn this meeting was made by Mr. Wall; seconded by  
Mr. Gale. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Stephanie A. G. Culhane  
Vice Chairperson**

## **Cranston 5 year CIP Plan**

### **PROJECT TITLE BUDGETED PROPOSED TOTAL**

	<b>2014-2015</b>	<b>2015-2016</b>	<b>2016-2017</b>	<b>2017-2018</b>	<b>2018-2019</b>	<b>2019-2020</b>
<b>1. CACTC Building ADA welding</b>	<b>710,074.00</b>				<b>710,074.00</b>	
<b>2. Park View Windows</b>	<b>2,300,000.00</b>			<b>2,300,000.00</b>		
<b>3. Park View science rooms</b>	<b>550,550.00</b>				<b>550,550.00</b>	
<b>4. Bain science rooms</b>	<b>600,000.00</b>			<b>600,000.00</b>		
<b>5. Western Hills Science rooms</b>	<b>577,903.00</b>				<b>577,903.00</b>	
<b>6..Cranston West roofs</b>	<b>977,903.00</b>			<b>977,903.00</b>		
<b>7. Cranston West hazardous material</b>				<b>779,145.00</b>	<b>779,145.00</b>	
<b>8. Cranston East HVAC</b>	<b>769,295.00</b>			<b>769,295.00</b>		
<b>9. Cranston East Fire Code issues</b>				<b>958,272.00</b>	<b>958,272.00</b>	
<b>10. Dutmple Hazardous material</b>				<b>192,723.00</b>	<b>192,723.00</b>	
<b>11. Dutemple Fire Code</b>	<b>311,150.00</b>			<b>311,150.00</b>		
<b>12. Watreman Fire Code</b>	<b>164,783.00</b>			<b>164,783.00</b>		
<b>13. Norwood Fire Code</b>	<b>153,400.00</b>			<b>153,400.00</b>		
<b>14. Stone Hill Sprinkler system</b>	<b>294,612.00</b>				<b>294,612.00</b>	
<b>15. Stone Hill ADA reapirs</b>		<b>142,600.00</b>		<b>142,600.00</b>		
<b>16. Woodridge Sprinkler system</b>	<b>399,838.00</b>				<b>399,838.00</b>	
<b>17. Woodridge hazardous material</b>				<b>291,400.00</b>	<b>291,400.00</b>	
<b>18. Gladstone Fire Code</b>	<b>300,950.00</b>			<b>300,950.00</b>		



19. Gladstone hazardous material	188,500.00	188,500.00
20. Oaklawn Kitchen ceiling repairs	3,630.00	3,630.00
21. Oaklawn Sprinkler	125,000.00	125,000.00
22. Oaklawn Windows	548,735.00	548,735.00
23. Edgewood Sprinkler	175,000.00	175,000.00
24. Edgewood health and safety	432,250.00	432,250.00
25. Edgewood ADA/exterior doors	35,960.00	35,960.00
26. Edgewood HVAC	310,000.00	310,000.00
27. Peters floor drains	22,860.00	22,860.00
28. Peters Fire Code	0.00 107,950.00	107,950.00
29. Stadium hazardous material	55,245.00	55,245.00
30. Stadium Fire code	94,298.00	94,298.00
31. Eden Park Fire Code	162,500.00	162,500.00
32. Garden City Fire Code	103,025.00	103,025.00
33. Garden City ADA repairs	66,950.00	66,950.00
34. Rhodes hazardous material	130,820.00	130,820.00
35. Rhodes Fire Code	183,520.00	183,520.00
36. Glen Hills sprinkler	181,500.00	181,500.00
37. Glen Hills window replacement	72,600.00	72,600.00
38. Glenn Hills ADA repairs	12,100.00	12,100.00
39. Glenn Hills hazardous materials	631,509.00	631,509.00
40. Chester Barrows Fire code	177,320.00	177,320.00
41. Chester Barrows Health & Safety	148,626.00	148,626.00
42. Arlington hazardous material	117,180.00	117,180.00
0.00		
0.00		

**0.00**

**0.00**

**0.00**

**0.00**

**0.00**

**0.00**

**0.00**

**0.00**

**Totals 3,860,624.00 3,035,386.00 1,794,641.00 1,903,952.00 1,865,421.00  
0 2,101,652.00 14,561,676.00**

## **STUDENT RETENTION POLICY      POLICY #5149**

### **STUDENT RETENTION POLICY**

**Parents/Guardians will be notified in writing by the end of the third quarter (on or about April 1st) if there is a chance that their child may be retained in their current grade for the next school year. For students who enroll after the second quarter, the notice of retention to the parent may be given after the end of the third quarter.**

#### **Elementary /Middle School**

**In general, students will be placed at the grade level to which they are**

**best adjusted academically, socially and emotionally. Students will usually progress annually from grade to grade, spending one year in each grade. However, some students will profit by staying another year in the same grade. In such cases, the parent will be contacted in advance, although the final decision will rest with the school authorities.**

**A final decision will be made at the end of the school year. Parent(s) will be notified of the final decision by email and certified letter.**

**If a parent disagrees with the decision to retain or not to retain a student, the parent may appeal the decision in accordance with the following:**

### **Retention Decision Appeal Process**

- 1. If the parents or guardians want to appeal the principal's decision they must do so in writing, within 10 school days of receiving the principal's letter, to the superintendent or designee.**
- 2. The parents or guardians shall be informed by written notice, in their dominant language, of a hearing with the superintendent or designee.**
- 3. All parties involved may be represented by legal counsel.**
- 4. The parties will be given an opportunity to present their reasons why they recommend or dispute retention of the student.**
- 5. The hearing will be conducted by the superintendent or designee**

**who shall make a determination based on evidence presented at the hearing.**

**6. The superintendent or designee will provide within 10 school days, a written decision to all parties, as to whether the student shall be retained.**

**7. The decision of the superintendent or designee will be translated to the dominant language of the parent(s) or guardian and sent to the parent(s) or guardians.**

**8. Parent(s) may appeal the decision of the superintendent or designee to the School Committee.**

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